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# **Selwyn House School**

95 Côte St. Antoine Road  
Westmount 217, Quebec



# Selwyn House School

## History

The school was founded in 1908 by Mr. Algernon Lucas, a graduate of Selwyn College, Cambridge. Mr. Lucas retired in 1912 and was succeeded by Mr. C. C. Macaulay, who was also a graduate of Selwyn College.

Mr. Geoffrey H. Wanstall, who joined the school in January, 1921, became headmaster of the Senior School in 1926 and succeeded Mr. Macaulay as Headmaster of both the Senior and Junior Schools upon the latter's retirement in 1929.

The school was first located on Mackay Street. In 1920 the Junior School was moved from Mackay Street to a neighbouring house on Sherbrooke Street, and in 1930 the school moved up to Redpath Street.

Upon the death of Mr. Wanstall in 1945, the ownership of the school passed to his heirs, all of whom resided in England. The keen interest in the future of the school, which was shown at that time by the Old Boys and parent body, encouraged a group of them to consider ways and means of acquiring and running the school. As a result, the Selwyn House Association was incorporated as a non-profit organization and the necessary funds were raised by subscription.

Considerable expansion and enlargement of school facilities — including a gymnasium, dining-room auditorium, memorial library and science laboratory — were undertaken by enthusiastic Boards of Directors over the next sixteen years, the school population almost doubled and pressure of enrolment continued to increase.

In the spring of 1961 it was decided to purchase the Westmount Senior High School building at the corner of Cote St. Antoine Road and Argyle Avenue in Westmount. This provided the school with first-rate facilities, including 15

large bright classrooms, a reading-room library, laboratories and a gymnasium. The move to Westmount not only afforded the school much more spacious surroundings and facilities than it was able to enjoy on Redpath Street, it also allowed the school to provide instruction beyond the junior high school level previously given and to complete all pre-university training at Selwyn House.

However, in 1968, the increased demand for the type of education offered by Selwyn House necessitated a further expansion of the original building. Four large classrooms, an art room, a spacious library and a French instruction room were added. The area of the gymnasium was doubled as were the attendant locker rooms and shower facilities. To meet the requirements of an expanding science programme, the physics laboratory was completely redesigned and new chemistry and geography laboratories were created.

Thus, the Selwyn House Association, which owns and operates the school through its Board of Directors, has continued the traditions established by the previous owners by providing the best possible day-school education for boys up to matriculation standard.

The present Headmaster is Robert A. Speirs, M.A., LL.D., who holds degrees from the University of Edinburgh and Columbia University. Dr. Speirs was Senior English Master at Lower Canada College for nine years and Assistant Headmaster for two years prior to his appointment as Headmaster of the School in 1945. In November 1968, the degree of LL.D. (*honoris causa*) was conferred upon Dr. Speirs for his contribution to education and service to the community.

The Assistant Headmaster is James E. Iversen, M.A., (McGill) who has been a French and English specialist member of the school staff since 1951.



CHEMISTRY  
LABORATORY



PHYSICS  
LABORATORY

### **Aim**

Selwyn House School is an undenominational school for boys from Grade 1 to matriculation, between the ages of approximately six and seventeen. There are no boarders. The school offers eleven years of study, and is conducted, as far as possible, on modified English school lines. The Staff is composed of qualified, experienced men and women teachers, many of whom have had experience in teaching in other schools in Canada and the United Kingdom.



### **Science Laboratory**

The school possesses two new, fully equipped laboratories, where experimental work in chemistry and physics is provided for boys of the High School grades. In addition to the matriculation syllabus, senior students have the opportunity to follow the new Chemistry Study curriculum and the Physical Sciences Study Course (P.S.S.C.).

### **Courses of Study**

Through comparatively small classes individual attention is assured.

Subjects taught in the Junior School (Grades I - IV) include: Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English (including Composition, Dictation and Spelling), French, History, Geography, Art, Scripture, Singing and Physical Training.

In the Middle and Senior School (Grades V - XI) the curriculum is designed to prepare students for the Provincial High School Certificate examination and numerous optional courses are offered as a means of challenging the more demanding student.



### **Gymnasium**

All classes in the school have regular periods of Physical Training and organized games under direction of fully qualified instructors. During these classes a positive attitude towards sports, and the qualities of sportsmanship, are developed.

CHRISTOPHER CORISTINE MEMORIAL DINING HALL



## **Choirs**

In addition to regular singing classes there are several school choirs. These groups lead the devotional exercises which are held weekly in Assembly and sing at the major functions and entertainments of the school. Younger students are given a programme of musical appreciation and have opportunities to attend concerts throughout the school year.



## **Lunches**

A three-course meal (with milk) is provided each day in the large dining-hall.

Milk is also available at morning recess for all who may desire it.

A snack bar, operated by the Students' Project Society, is open to students during the morning recess period and after lunch.

## **Debating**

Practice in public-speaking is encouraged throughout the Senior School, and the boys of the top Form comprise the Selwyn Oratorical Society, which meets on alternate Fridays for debates, discussions of short speeches on set themes. An open public-speaking competition is held each spring and the finalists speak in Assembly before the whole school, whilst the winner represents the school in inter-school contests.



## **Assemblies**

An assembly is held one morning each week at 8:45 and consists of the singing of a hymn, the reading of a scripture lesson by a prefect of the school, academic and sports announcements for the week, and a closing prayer.

From time to time distinguished visitors and Old Boys of the school are invited to address the boys at Assembly on topics of widespread interest.



ART  
ROOM

GEOFFREY  
WANSTALT  
MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY



## **Sports**

Team games in Canadian Football, Soccer, Basketball and Hockey are played with other schools, both in Montreal and elsewhere. A programme of intra-mural competition is offered in Hockey, Soccer, Basketball, Skiing and Track and Field.

Christmas Term: Forms D — A have soccer and gymnastics, while Forms I - VII (Grades 5 - 11) follow a programme of cross-country running, soccer and football. At the close of this season basketball, volleyball and hockey are played by Forms I - VII, while members of the Junior School have gymnastics, indoor-games, and skating which is combined with the development of hockey skills.

Easter Term: Inter-school and intra-mural hockey is played at regularly scheduled times in inside rinks. Basketball teams participate in inter-school competition; gymnastics and skiing are offered as intra-mural sports.

Summer Term: Boys in the Junior School follow a programme of soccer, track and field. Forms I - VII participate in softball, soccer or rugger, as well as a comprehensive programme of cross-country running, track and field.

N.B. In the event of inclement weather interfering with outside games, an alternative programme is provided inside the school.

## **Dress**

All articles of school attire (for details of which please see separate folder) may be obtained from Hawarth's of Canada, Ltd.

Parents are particularly requested to make sure that all articles of clothing are clearly marked with the owner's name.



## **House System**

For all intra-mural games and a number of general school activities, all boys from Grade III up are members of one of four houses, and a healthy spirit of rivalry promotes keen competition in both group and individual contests within the school. Each house has a master of the school as House-master and a number of major awards are presented annually to the winning houses in various fields of endeavour.



## **Library**

The new library, which was completed in January 1969, contains some eight thousand carefully selected volumes, as well as English, French and Spanish periodicals. The library is under the supervision of an experienced librarian and every effort is made to direct and develop students' reading interests in worthwhile channels.



FRENCH  
LABORATORY



GEOGRAPHY  
LABORATORY

## **Art**

Regular classes in both drawing and painting are given in Junior and Middle School forms.



## **University Guidance**

In order to prepare boys for their subsequent university education and later choice of a career, members of the leading professions visit the school and talk to the X<sup>th</sup> and XI<sup>th</sup> Grade students. Thus, the boys are made aware of the training required for various occupations and the opportunities open to them in these professions. Similarly, Admission Officers from the larger Canadian and American universities visit to discuss with these senior students entrance requirements and courses at the institutions they represent.



## **Special Awards**

In addition to Form, Gymnastic and other special prizes, the following awards are made annually.

(1) The Lucas Medal — awarded in memory of the Founder of the school to the boy in the top form, who, by vote of staff and form-students, is adjudged the best boy in work, games, leadership and general character.

(2) The Jeffrey Russel Prize (in memory of an Old Boy) — awarded on the vote of the staff and top form to the boy possessing the best all-round ability and character as a runner-up to the Lucas Medalist. This prize is open to any boy in the Senior School.

(3) The Governor-General's Bronze Medal — presented to the boy with the highest academic record for the year in the top form of the Senior School.

(4) The MacMaster Memorial Sportsman's Cup — presented to the best all-round sportsman of the Senior School in the judgement of the Headmaster.

(5) The Cassils Memorial Sportsman's Cup — presented to the best all-round sportsman of the school up to and including Grade VII in the judgement of the Headmaster.

(6) The Thomas Chalmers Brainerd Memorial Award — awarded to that member of the senior form who, in the opinion of his classmates and form masters, has successfully combined an exceptionally enthusiastic and purposeful approach to school activities with consistently generous and sympathetic fellow-feeling.

SCHOOL GYMNASIUM





